

for the cargo weight rating should be located. Part 575.105 (Utility vehicles) requires that manufacturers of utility vehicles affix a sticker in a prominent location alerting drivers that the particular handling and maneuvering characteristics of utility vehicles require special driving practices when these vehicles are operated.

*Need and Use of the Information:* In order to ensure that motor vehicle manufacturers are complying with 49 CFR Part 575, and to provide performance and safety information to new vehicle purchases.

*Annual Estimated Burden:* The total estimated annual burden is 225 hours.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget, 725-17th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20503, Attention DOT Desk Officer.

Comments are invited on: whether the proposed collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the Department, including whether the information will have practical utility; the accuracy of the Department's estimate of the burden of the proposed information collection; ways to enhance the quality, utility and clarity of the information to be collected; and ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents, including the use of automated collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

Issued in Washington, DC, on December 23, 1996.

Phillip A. Leach,

*Clearance Officer, United States Department of Transportation.*

[FR Doc. 96-33297 Filed 12-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4910-62-P

### Surface Transportation Board

[STB Docket No. AB-480X]

#### **K & E Railway Company— Abandonment Exemption—in Alfalfa, Garfield, and Grant Counties, OK, and Barber County, KS**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of exemption.

**SUMMARY:** Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, the Board exempts the abandonment by K & E Railway Company of its entire 57.69-mile rail line, between milepost 0.60, at or near Kiowa, in Barber County, KS, and milepost 56.98, at or near Blanton, in Garfield County, OK, and between milepost 299.88 and milepost 301.19, near Cherokee, in Alfalfa County, OK,

from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903, and the abandonment of 5.69 miles of the right-of-way between milepost 18.82 and milepost 23.20, and between milepost 299.88 and milepost 301.19, from the offer of financial assistance (OFA) requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10904 and the public use requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10905, subject to historic preservation and environmental conditions.

**DATES:** With respect to the two line segments exempted from 49 U.S.C. 10904-05, the exemption will be effective on December 31, 1996, and petitions to reopen must be filed by January 27, 1997. With respect to the remainder of the line, provided no formal expression of intent to file an OFA is received, this exemption will be effective on January 30, 1997, formal expressions of intent to file an OFA<sup>1</sup> under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2) and requests for a notice of interim trail use/rail banking under 49 CFR 1152.29 must be filed by January 10, 1997; petitions to stay must be filed by January 10, 1997; requests for public use conditions in conformity with 49 CFR 1152.28(a)(2) must be filed by January 21, 1997; and petitions to reopen must be filed by January 27, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send pleadings referring to STB Docket No. AB-480X to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20423, and (2) Petitioner's representative: Karl Morell, Ball Janik LLP, Suite 225, 1455 F St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beryl Gordon, (202) 927-5660. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721.]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC News & Data, Inc., Room 2229, 1201 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20423. Telephone: (202) 289 4357-4359. [Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through TDD services (202) 927-5721.]

Decided: December 23, 1996.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan, Vice Chairman Simmons, and Commissioner Owen.

Vernon A. Williams,

*Secretary.*

[FR Doc. 96-33275 Filed 12-30-96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-00-P

<sup>1</sup> See *Exempt. of Rail Abandonment—Offers of Finan. Assist.*, 4 I.C.C.2d 164 (1987).

[STB Docket Nos. AB-3 (Sub-No. 139X);  
STB Docket No. AB-423 (Sub-No. 2X)]

#### **Missouri Pacific Railroad Company— Abandonment and Discontinuance Of Operations Exemption—in Houston, Harris County, TX; Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Company— Discontinuance of Operations Exemption—in Houston, Harris County TX**

**AGENCY:** Surface Transportation Board, DOT.

**ACTION:** Notice of exemption.

**SUMMARY:** Under 49 U.S.C. 10502, the Board exempts Missouri Pacific Railroad Company and Houston Belt & Terminal Railway Company from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10903 to permit them, respectively, to abandon and discontinue operations and discontinue operations over a 0.52-mile rail segment of the Columbia Tap Branch (Columbia Tap) extending from the end of the line at E.S. 261+00 to E.S. 288+60 near Houston,<sup>1</sup> and from the offer of financial assistance requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10904 and the public use requirements of 49 U.S.C. 10905, subject to standard employee protective conditions.

**DATES:** This exemption is effective December 31, 1996. Formal expressions of intent to file an OFA and requests for public use and trail use will not be accepted. Petitions to reopen must be filed by January 21, 1997.

**ADDRESSES:** Send pleadings referring to STB Docket Nos. AB-3 (Sub-No. 139X) and AB-423 (Sub-No. 2X) to: (1) Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Branch, 1201 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20423, and (2) Petitioners' representatives: Joseph D. Anthofer, 1416 Dodge St., Omaha, NE, 68179-0830, and J. B. Mathis, 501 Crawford, Houston, TX 77002-2192.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Beryl Gordon, (202) 927-7513. [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 927-5721.]

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

Additional information is contained in the Board's decision. To purchase a copy of the full decision, write to, call, or pick up in person from: DC News & Data, Inc., Room 2229, 1201 Constitution Ave., N.W., Washington,

<sup>1</sup> MP is operated under common control and management with Union Pacific Railroad Company and Southern Pacific Transportation Company. HB&T is owned by MP and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company. HB&T leases and operates property owned by its parent railroads. HB&T operates over and MP owns the line segment proposed for abandonment.